

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (Original). An immunoassay for the human TNF Binding Protein TBP-II (residues 27-214 of SEQ ID NO:2) in body fluids, comprising measuring the interaction of TBP-II with an antibody to human TBP-II which specifically recognizes said protein.

2 (Original). A diagnostic assay for measuring the levels of antibodies to TBP-II endogenously produced in sera of patients in several disorders, comprising measuring the interaction of endogenous antibody with TBP-II.

3 (Original). A method for the purification of human TNF Binding Protein TBP-II (residues 27-214 of SEQ ID NO:2) utilizing a suitable antibody to human TBP-II which specifically recognizes said protein, comprising the following steps:

- a. coupling said antibody to a suitable resin to construct an immunoaffinity column;
- b. loading a solution containing said protein on said immunoaffinity column;
- c. washing away the non-bound proteins with a suitable washing buffer;

- d. eluting the bound TNF Binding Protein TBP-II with a suitable eluent; and
- e. collecting the enriched fraction of said TBP-II.

4 (New). A method for producing a peptide that inhibits the signaling for the cytotoxic effect by the p75 TNF receptor, but does not block TNF binding to the p75 TNF receptor, said peptide comprising the antigen binding portion of an antibody that binds to an extracellular domain of the C-terminal cysteine loop of the p75 TNF receptor, which loop consists of the amino acid sequence Cys-185 to Thr-201 of SEQ ID NO:3, wherein said antibody is encoded by a nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8 and SEQ ID NO:10, comprising:

culturing a host cell transformed with a replicable expression vehicle capable of expressing said peptide, said replicable expression vehicle comprising a DNA molecule encoding said peptide.

5 (New). A method in accordance with claim 4, further including the step of recovering and purifying said peptide.